
Iowa Biotech Association Monthly Update December 2010

This message was sent to you as a benefit of membership in the IBA.
If you would like more information on any topic or no longer wish to receive these messages,
please email Mike Ott at mikeott@iowabio.org or call (319) 621-8580

Breaking News

Our new website is up and running! Check out www.iowabio.org It will be the hub for biotechnology in Iowa, with breaking news and links to members and partners. We would appreciate it if you would link to our site. A copy of our logo is attached, if you would like to place a small version on your site. In the near future we will send out member access information and setup automated billing.

Please update your contacts to rachelhurley@iowabio.org and mikeott@iowabio.org for future use.

Please RSVP to info@iowabio.org for the Welcome Back Reception on January 11 from 5-7pm at the State Historical Building.

Rachel wrote this guest column in the Des Moines Register:
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101229/OPINION01/12290329/-1/WESTDESMOINES/Guest-column-Invest-in-biotechnology-to-help-move-Iowa-forward>

Welcome to New Members

Penford, who develops, manufactures and markets specialty natural-based ingredient systems for various applications, including papermaking, textiles, and food products.
www.penx.com

Aerotek, who specializes in contract, contract to hire and direct placement positions for food, pharmaceutical, chemical and agricultural industries. www.aerotek.com

Food & Agriculture



Syngenta agreed to **license a corn trait** to Pioneer in a deal that could be worth \$400 million:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101215/BUSINESS/12150346/1029/Syngenta-agrees-to-license-biotech-corn-trait-to-Pioneer>



Pioneer **bought two seed companies** to expand its sales reach:
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/12/27/pioneer-hi-bred-buys-two-more-seed-companies/>



ISU researchers **sequenced 6 corn genomes** and were surprised to find entire genes missing from different varieties:

<http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2010/nov/schnable>

ISU survey results show that **Iowa land prices rose 16%** to over \$5,000 per acre last year

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/12/15/isu-says-farm-land-rose-16-percent-to-5064-per-acre/>

CARD released **daily corn and soybean basis maps** for Iowa:

http://www.card.iastate.edu/ag_risk_tools/basis_maps/

Corn and soybean prices are driving a **battle for acreage for the 2011 crop**:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110102/BUSINESS01/101020320/1030/Battle-for-acres-Soybean-prices-strong-but-traders-say-more-corn-needed>

Farmland values are skyrocketing, with some Iowa land fetching over \$8,000 per acre at auction:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101205/BUSINESS01/12050343/1030/Why-farmland-is-skyrocketing>

KSU Extension released this informative paper on **US Crop Acreage Trends and Price Ratios**: http://www.agmanager.info/marketing/outlook/newletters/archives/GRAIN-OUTLOOK_12-10-10.pdf

Dry weather in Brazil may send **soybean prices to a two year high**:

http://www.agnetwork.com/wednesday_newsletter.aspx?oid=1289034&tid=Archive&hq_e=el&hq_m=889485&hq_l=16&hq_v=5f53f8d16f

Chinese corn purchases could **drive up prices**:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/12/23/more-forecasts-of-chinese-corn-purchases/>

The House **passed a Food Safety Bill**, which is expected to be signed by President

Obama: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101222/BUSINESS01/12220335/1030/Food-safety-bill-on-its-way-to-Obama>

The USDA is considering implementing new rules that would **place restrictions on when and where biotech crops could be planted**:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703395204576023902499144520.html?mod=dist_smartbrief

The Child Nutrition Bill, which **expands the school lunch program and increases the quality of school meals**, has passed both the House and Senate:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/03/us/politics/03child.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=a24

USDA asked to approve a **GMO apple that won't brown**

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5qjbYauB3WWZW2NuY5bwD7RluUv2A?docId=606e323dbd664ba1b021280b03aff34c>

Industrial & Environmental



TetraVitaE successfully **demonstrated its corn-to-biobutanol process at NCERC:**

<http://biorefiningmagazine.com/articles/5183/tetravitaE-successfully-demonstrates-biobutanol-production>



Genencor **received state incentives** for Biolsoprene, a biobased rubber component that it is co-developing with Goodyear:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101216/BUINESS/101216014/WebFilings-Genencor-win-state-grants>



Iowa State researchers are making progress in **growing and harvesting microalgae for biodiesel:**

http://iowastatedaily.com/news/article_3344983a-000b-11e0-b448-001cc4c002e0.html

Novozymes predicts that **2nd generation biofuels won't hit commercial scale until 2014:** <http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE6BL0X220101222>

Novozymes **acquired EMD/Merck Crop BioScience** from Merck for \$275 million: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6BJ1AR20101220>

Elevance Renewable Sciences has **successfully raised \$100 million** to make high performance ingredients from renewable feedstocks:

http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=102891

Virginia Tech researchers have discovered an **enzymatic mixture removes a crucial step from the cellulosic ethanol conversion process:**

<http://www.physorg.com/news/2010-12-enzyme-cocktail-biofuel.html>

Research funded by BP's EBI has shown dramatic **improvements in biomass conversion to ethanol by yeast:** <http://www.physorg.com/news/2010-12-scientists-major-obstacles-cellulosic-biofuel.html>

The biodiesel industry is **poised to flourish** after enduring hard times recently:
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101231/BUSINESS01/12310339/1030/Biodiesel-industry-primed-to-flourish>

China has **removed all consumption taxes from biodiesel** made from vegetable oils and animal fats: http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/article.jsp?article_id=4616

The EPA announced a **timetable for issuing regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions** from power plants and oil refineries:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/24/science/earth/24epa.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=ar23>

Ethanol **production increased by 13% over the last year, up to 13 billion gallons.** Iowa produced ~3.9 billion gallons in 2010.
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/12/22/ethanol-production-up-13-percent-from-2009/>

Legal challenges to RFS2 by various petroleum groups have been denied in full:
http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/article.jsp?article_id=4609

Biofuel incentives **have passed through Congress:**
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/12/17/biofuel-incentives-clear-congress/>

Biodiesel **RIN prices are near all-time highs**, more than compensating for the loss of the \$1/gallon blender's credit: http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/article.jsp?article_id=4580

The EPA released the **2011 RFS volume requirements:**
http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/article.jsp?article_id=4566

Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals



Sanofi Aventis and Avila have **signed a global alliance worth up to \$800 million** for covalent treatments for cancers:
http://www.boston.com/business/ticker/2010/12/avila_sanofi_av.html



Novartis **bought the remaining 23% of Alcon** that it didn't already own for \$12.9 billion:
<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2010/12/15/novartis-wraps-up-alcon-deal-for-12-9-billion/?nl=business&emc=d1bka23>



Eli Lilly placed tasisulam, a **late stage melanoma drug**, on full clinical hold:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1323042420101213>



Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca have **halted trials of anti-nerve-growth-factor drugs because of concerns of joint damage**:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203513204576047792731360756.html?mod=dist_smartbrief



Johnson & Johnson still plans to proceed with its acquisition of Crucell, but **may change the terms based on the evolving situation** at Crucell's vaccine production facility in South Korea:

http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20101201-709545.html?mod=dist_smartbrief

RNAi is being used **to block Huntington's disease** in mice:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203731004576045903208671660.html?mod=WSJ_hps_sections_health

A 6 year old suffering from an unknown ailment was **saved by a cord blood treatment** that 'rebooted' his immune system: http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/40749681/ns/today-today_health/

Researchers **may have cured HIV in a German patient**, but it won't be easy to replicate:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/12/14/hiv.infection.cure/>

Gene therapy has been used to increase levels of brain chemicals that stimulate memory development, which **could become a treatment for Alzheimer's disease**:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-11850041>

Stem cells have been used **to regenerate damaged spines**:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1334305/Stem-cell-breakthrough-help-patients-bad-backs-grow-new-spine.html>

Merck **could spend up to \$500 million purchasing SmartCells**, which has a diabetes drug under development:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703865004575649270661657104.html?mod=dist_smartbrief

Arteriocyte is selling a **stem cell based product that behaves like bone marrow**:

<http://www.medcitynews.com/2010/12/arteriocyte-launches-stem-cell-based-blood-product-for-researchers/>

21 new drugs were approved by the FDA, down slightly from recent years:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704543004576052170335871018.html?mod=dist_smartbrief

Analysts predict that biotech drugmakers will be **able to raise their prices despite the passage of the recent healthcare law**: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-29/sector-snap-biotech-companies-and-drug-prices.html>

The National Cancer Institute **is revamping the way it conducts clinical trials**:

http://community.advanceweb.com/blogs/nurses_17/archive/2010/12/29/national-cancer-institute-revamps-clinical-trials-program.aspx

New Jersey is proposing a \$5 increase in birth certificate cost in order **to start collecting stem cells from umbilical cords**:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/112568774_Legislation_seeks_to_offer_affordable_storage_of_stem_cells.html

Entire fetal genomes **can be tested by scanning the mother's blood**:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gkPonP4CSkYzx8Dwey9Z992gdjtq?docId=CNG.527cfa684a917af663876a34efe86017.791>

Steven Burrill made an interesting **list of predictions** about the biotech industry for 2011:

<http://www.medcitynews.com/2010/12/biotech-prognostications-from-steven-burrill/>

New Members:

If you know of a company that would benefit from the Association's advocacy, financial savings and education/workforce focus, please have them contact the Association at (319)-621-8580 or email mikeott@iowabio.org Membership details available at www.iowabio.org

Events:

5th Annual IRFA Summit, Des Moines, IA Jan. 25, www.iowarfa.org

BIO World Congress on Bioprocessing, Toronto, CA, May 8-11
<http://www.bio.org/worldcongress/>

BIO International Convention, Washington DC, June 27-30 <http://convention.bio.org/>

Want to promote your biotechnology conference, symposium or training class? SEND A NOTE TO MICHAEL OTT AT mikeott@iowabio.org Members may submit their event for a free listing on the Event Calendar that appears on IowaBiotech.com and other affiliate state associations. Discounted rates are available for prospective members.

PURCHASING AGREEMENTS:

One of the largest benefits of membership in the IBA is access to discounted merchandise through our purchasing partners. Please contact us at 515-327-9156 for details on:

Lab Equipment Supplies and Chemicals: Primary Contract- **Thermo Fisher Scientific**

Secondary Contract- **VWR**

Lab Casework & Equipment:

Primary contract- **Fisher Hamilton/Wynn O. Jones**

Secondary - **TMI & Kewaunee/Innovative Lab Sys.**

Analytical Equipment & Supplies

Shimadzu Scientific and Beckman Coulter

Office equipment, Supplies & Furniture

OfficeMax

Speakers

IBA staff are available to give 15-60 minute speeches to interested groups, such as Rotary Clubs, trade associations, or civic groups. A broad range of topics could be discussed, included biotechnology, healthcare, food vs. fuel, legislative policy, investment and more. Contact Rachel Hurley at (515) 327-9156 or rachelhurley@iowabio.org

Today's Thought:

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

--Lady Dorothy Nevill